

**Private Admonition -- Board Case No. 12, 1992. Date of Sanction: September 30, 1992.** After a hearing before a special panel of the Board on Professional Responsibility, a private admonition was imposed upon the Respondent for violating **DLRPC 1.9(a)**, which forbids conflicts with former clients.

The Respondent had represented Wife in a divorce action around 1982-84. The Respondent then represented Husband in separate divorce action around 1987. Later in that year, Wife and Husband married. When Wife and Husband separated in 1991, Wife requested that the Respondent represent her in a divorce proceeding against Husband, and Respondent agreed. Although Husband did not object to Respondent's representation of Wife at first, Husband's counsel objected later, and Respondent was ordered by the court to withdraw as wife's lawyer. The Board found that even though the divorce actions were different and took place at different times, they were "substantially related" under **DLRPC 1.9(a)**, because the Respondent received confidential information about the Husband in the prior case which could have been used against him in the latter case. There was no finding, however, that the Respondent had used or conveyed confidential information regarding the former client. **DLRPC 1.9(a)** generally forbids an attorney from representing a client adverse to a former client in the same or a "substantially related" legal matter. There were no conditions attached to the sanction except for the payment of costs. The Respondent had no prior disciplinary record.